

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method comprising:
reading data in response to a request for a predetermined
amount of data; and
5 determining an amount of data that has been read prior to
completing reading the predetermined amount of data.
 2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises
keeping track of the data as the data is read.
 - 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises
maintaining a count of data that has been read.
 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined
15 amount of data comprises prefetch data and demand data, the
demand data comprising data for a computer program and the
prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.
 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising satisfying
20 a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that
has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined
amount of data.
 6. The method of claim 5, wherein, if the amount of data
25 that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request

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for the demand data, the method further comprises waiting for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

5 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 issuing a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the predetermined amount of data; and

10 storing an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is issued.

 8. An article comprising a computer-readable storage medium which stores computer-executable instructions that
15 cause a computer to:

 read data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of data; and

 determine an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

20 9. The article of claim 8, wherein determining comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

 10. The article of claim 8, wherein determining
25 comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

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11. The article of claim 8, wherein the predetermined amount of data comprises prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

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12. The article of claim 11, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to satisfy a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

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13. The article of claim 12, wherein, if the amount of data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data, the article further comprises instructions that cause the computer to wait for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

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14. The article of claim 8, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to:

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issue a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the predetermined amount of data; and

store an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is issued.

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15. An apparatus comprising:
a memory which stores computer-executable instructions;
and

a processor which executes the instructions to (i) read
5 data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of
data, and (ii) determine an amount of data that has been read
prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein determining
10 comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein determining
comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the predetermined
15 amount of data comprises prefetch data and demand data, the
demand data comprising data for a computer program and the
prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the processor
20 executes instructions to satisfy a request for the demand data
based on the amount of data that has been read prior to
completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein, if the amount of
25 data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the

21. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor executes instructions to (i) issue a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the predetermined amount of data, and (ii) store an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is issued.

is issued.

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